

**ORDINARY MEETING OF**  
**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ON**

**MONDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022 AT 2:00 P.M.**

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**Jen Sinnamon**

**Elaine McCarthy**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Member, can you hear me, okay?

Very welcome to our June meeting. Just check in with everyone remote. Are you able to hear us, okay? Okay, thank you. Okay I am going to hand you over to Helen for meeting etiquette and roll call.

ADMINISTRATOR: I like to welcome the elected members, the press and the public to the meeting and remind the elected members to remotely to leave their micro phones off unless they are speaking with their cameras on and members of the public to have microphones and cameras off. If you lose connectivity, please contact me and we will get you back in. Now, for the roll call.

[ Roll call taken]

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, moving on to votes of sympathy. I just have two before I open it up. Firstly, sympathies to the Glennon family on the recent bereavement of Margaret Borza, sister of our councillor and colleague here, Cllr Patsy Glennon. Deepest sympathy to your family. Secondly the Merrigan and Murphy family in Laragh on the recent tragic death of baby Archie Merrigan, a five week old baby. Both families are immersed in the communities of Laragh, to deepest sympathies on behalf of the council. Okay, Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I would like to be associated with the vote of sympathy on our colleague Patsy, on his sister who fought bravely against an illness over the last while. Very sorry.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I would like to be associated with that vote of sympathy for Cllr Glennon's sister. I wanted to also propose a vote of sympathy for Colm Keohe, the

principle of the Wicklow Educate Together who passed away suddenly last week. He was the school, the teachers, the pupils, his colleagues are absolutely devastated. He was very popular, innovative and they speak of him as being an inspirational type of teacher. It happened in the week of the State exams, beginning and it has really hit the pupils very hard, so I like to propose a vote of sympathy for his family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I want to propose a vote of sympathy to the family of

Ms Mayanne Rynne. She was very much ensconced in the community. She was a councillor for many years. She died just last week and obviously she has a big family connection in Arklow and abroad.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to be associated with the sympathies to the Glennon family as well and also associated with sympathies for Colm Kehoe. He attended a meeting a couple of years ago in Newtownmountkenedy that was organised about secondary schools and education. Even though I only met

him briefly he left a huge impression. He was a fantastic person and his passion for teaching shone brightly. My sympathies go to his family and all the pupils at Wicklow Educate Together secondary school.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: I would like to be associated with the vote of sympathy to the Glennon family, sorry to hear of the loss. And to the family of Oliver Cullen, who passed away a few weeks ago in Greystones. He was a great supporter of mine regularly teased me about not getting a particular lamp fixed in Greystones and hopefully I can do that, sadly it will be a bit too late. And pass on my sympathies again to the Glennon family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay, nobody else indicating. I will bring in Helen.

ADMINISTRATOR: I just wish to add one more. We remember Peter Hughes, sister of our colleague, Bernie Byrne and uncle of our colleague Emer Byrne.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will stand for a moment's silence.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: May their souls and souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, members, moving on to our agenda. Item number one on our agenda to confirm and sign minutes of the ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 9th of May 2022. Could I have a proposer and seconder, please. Proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien. Item number two. All agreed? Yeah.

Item number two, to consider the disposal of property situated at Lathaleer, Baltinglass, County Wicklow, being lands annexed to the existing sporting pitch number one comprising 0.6880 hectares (1.7 acres) plus new pitch number two comprising 1.0564 hectares (2.6 acres), by 30-year lease to incorporate the additional lands to Baltinglass Town AFC as were previously circulated.

Could I have a proposer and seconder? Do you want to come in to speak on this Cllr Edward Timmins?

CLLR TIMMINS: Just briefly. The soccer club don't have a permanent home and this lease will facilitate them to apply for grants and funding to develop the club which has a large membership, so I am happy to propose this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr Mullen. Are we all agreed? Agreed? Thank you. Item number 3, to consider

the disposal of 0.1058 hectares or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, County Wicklow by way of lease, land originally acquired from Ms Kathleen Bourne, Ms Mary Kate Shannon, Ms Rosemary Alexander, Ms Elizabeth McCormack and Ms Rosemary Magnier to Cedarbrick Limited, Unit B4 Oakfield Industrial Estate, Ninth Lock Road, Clondalkin, by way of two year lease commencing 1st July 2022.

As per notice previously circulated. Could I have a proposer and seconder, please? Proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr O'Brien. All agreed? Agreed, thank you. Item number 4, to consider the disposal of properties situated in the townland of Enniskerry, County Wicklow, surprised in folio WW4484, being the property at the rear of 64 Kilgarron Park County Wicklow by transfer order of Ms Margaret Wogan deceased. The person entitled to purchase the property as per notice previously circulated. Proposed by Melanie Corrigan and seconded by Cllr Dermot O'Brien. All agreed? Thank you.

Item number 5, to consider disposal of property situated in the townland of Abbeylands, County Wicklow, comprised in WW4065, being the property known as 26 Connolly Street Arklow, to transfer order of Miss Anna May Cox, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property as per notice previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Kennedy. All in agreement? Agreed, thank you. Item number 6, to consider the disposal of properties situated in the townland of Bray Commons County Wicklow, being the property known as 14 Ravens Well Terrace by transfer order to Miss Breda O'Hara, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property as per notice previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Dermot O'Brien. All in agreement? Agreed.

Item number 7, to consider disposal of property situated in the townland of Corporate Lands Wicklow being the property of 10 Convent Road Wicklow Road formally known as 9 Convent Road by transfer order of Miss Anne Kelly of Mr Patrick Murphy as per previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Cllr Dunne. All in agreement? Agreed. Moving on to item number 8, to consider the filling of casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Mags Crean.

ADMINISTRATOR: In accordance with Section 19.2 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. The elected members were notified that a casual vacancy due to the resignation of Mags Crean. Legislation states that a co-option shall be made after due notice after the expiration of 14 days from the occurrence of the vacancy or as soon as after the 14 days as circumstances permit. Cllr Crean has nominated Stephen Stokes to fill it and he has consented in writing by letter dated 24th of May 2022. So, we are now looking for a proposer and seconder.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before we go on to proposer and seconder, I think it's important to pay tribute to former Cllr Mags Crean for her three-year service as a councillor, representing the Greystones Municipal District and indeed we all do. I have always found former Cllr Crean to be a hard-working person with wonderful things that endeared her to her community. She has been a real community person in the time I have known her, I think we are all very

sad to see her leave. I know she has taken her role very seriously over the last three years in terms of what she believes in and how she votes on particular issues and so on and I have had many conversations with her over the last few months and I know it's been a very difficult decision for her to come to. I just want to say, look, you know, you have done an amazing job for your community, you should be very proud of that, but I suppose the bigger picture for yourself is that the council role maybe didn't work with your private role in terms of employment and possibly having concerns about family, your family commitments and trying to tie the whole thing together. So sometimes you have to make these decisions for the better of your family and your life, but it was a brave decision for anyone to put their name forward to represent the Council in terms of an election, but it's even a braver view in my view to know that it's not really suited to you at a particular time in your life and I think that you deserve great credit for making that decision, because it's a difficult decision and I know you have had a lot of time to think over it and it has been a very difficult decision for you to make. From my point of view, before I open it up to the

other members, I just want to wish you very well for the future. I think you are a wonderful person; I have no doubt you will remain very active in your community, and I just want to wish you and your family all the best in the future. I am going to open it up to the floor. Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: I agree with the sentiment you have just said. Mags has been an important part of the independent group and made a tremendous contribution to it. She has had to make an important decision. In the current world we live in it's very difficult to have a very busy career and to grow your career at the same time do something like politics. Politics is something that takes up an inordinate amount of time, with Mags and her career, they were on an upward trend. She is very professional about how she does things and I think the professionalism that she displayed as a councillor is reflected in the decision that she has taken. Most people might have said, oh, sure I will hang in there, work it on for the next couple of years and make the call. But no, one of the things I have noted about her in the time I have worked with her has been a kind of what I would call an understated tenacity. She brought, in my view, a massive amount of fairness to the role,

massive amount of freshness, but she also had this kind of, or has this understated tenacity.

When I say to Mags, we are not talking about her death, we are talking about something she has had to do to get on with her career.

In my time as a councillor, I have experienced two or three other people doing the very same thing, where their careers were taking off and they had to do it. To me it's a very big decision and I think it reflects the type of individual she is. I think the big loss is that she is a massive loss to politics. I think politics in general needs people of the makeup that she has displayed. As you said, Chair, she is a fantastic community person and was very proud in her work. We would have seen that in the group that whatever items would be discussed the preparation she would put into it. If she wasn't able to do the preparation it frustrated her.

So as I say, her, as you all probably know as well, she works in academia and is a person that is very structured

and organised, but can I say also, she has had that experience and it's given her a taste and I have had a number of conversations with her, as you can imagine, there is nothing to stop her when she gets her career to the level she wants it, or whatever change she would make in the future. I have no doubt at all that she will come back into politics. That will be for the better of politics. Politics is changing, as I have said recently somewhere. It's changing like an express train, there is things happening like an express train, so again, for me, it's the, I suppose the selfie look... we have a small group in the chamber, she is an integral part of that. I want to say the best to her and her family. I have no doubt she will be involved in things anyway in her own right and that sometime in the future I think we will see her back in the political sphere. So, I want to say well done on your decision. I understand how you, why you had to make a decision and how you made it and the best of luck with everything you do in the future. I have no doubt you are going to be massively successful.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you and well-said. Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: Connection issues there, can you hear me, okay?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead.

CLLR NEARY: I want to say it's going to be a huge loss to our Council, but I have to say it's, for Mags, it's going to be a benefit for your family of course, your career and whatever else you get involved in. I don't want to sound so sad about it, because again like Cllr Fortune said it's not a death. We will miss you greatly for the work you have contributed and the compassion and collegiality you have given us, especially as a woman in politics.

You have helped me through various different challenges that really face women in politics. That is juggling life and the waged job, the job that pays the bills and trying to manage and navigate through all of those ups and downs. It's just a particularly different experience for women, particularly as we have similar aged children as well, we were able to talk about that and acknowledge that.

Hopefully, that will change in the future, so that maybe our daughters, or other women feel like they can actually engage in the sector and become representatives and not

have to make these huge decisions based on the practicalities that are there. I think a lot needs to be changed in politics to support women to be able to do that and hopefully that will change in the future, but for now I wish you all the best and your family and I know we are going to see you on the streets campaigning and engaging with the community, so as I said, I don't want to be too sad about it, I want to wish you all the best, okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I want to be associated along with what has been said about Mags. I think Mags is one of the most thoughtful persons I have ever met. Both in politics and outside in, as Cllr Fortune said in academia. She will be sorely missed. She never, she prepared really well for everything coming up and you would see from the Notice of Motions that she tabled that it was more than simple stuff. She was so thoughtful in what she did and her approach. As Cllr Jodie Neary said, there is a huge issue for women and politics and trying to make, trying to make everything balance and it's very difficult for a lot of women. Hopefully, things will change in the future Jodie said. I have no doubt I will meet Mags

again in UCD, but I want to wish her the best of luck. I know she will be absolutely fantastic. Her career, as Cllr Fortune said is rising and I have also no doubt that she will be back in politics someday. We could certainly do with 50/50 approach I think in all councils around the country, so I just want to wish Mags the best. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I want to say I am feeling very sad actually that, no longer Cllr Crean but Cllr Mags Crean has left the council. She has been hard-working as a public rep and her contributions in our own Municipal District were always so well-voiced and very valuable to any discussions we had. Not just in the district and the public record, but I also phoned her, and we would talk about issues in the district, and it was always a very valuable conversation from my perspective, and I will miss that, and I think it's a pity we will lose her voice in these discussions. When I started, we were the two newbies' in the Municipal District and again on a personal level, she provided great support to me then. She was always at the end of a phone, we often met for coffee

and particularly again discussing the challenges that do meet women in politics and particularly women with caring roles in politics. I have to say, we need more voices like Mags around the table, we need more diverse voices and politics is going to have to change very quickly in order to achieve that. It's terribly sad to see a person of Mags' calibre being forced to make a decision between her career and family and politics. I would like to add, as Chair of the Councillor's Women's Caucus she made a valid contribution to that and always if they couldn't make the meetings, giving me her ideas and support. Her contribution was always very much appreciated. I want to wrap up by saying again I wish her the absolute very best in her endeavours. I know she will continue to do great work for the community. I can only hope she will take the plunge and come back into politics again. That it's fair to say she would always be welcome around the table again.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Mags, your popularity is unbelievable. Both screens here are lighting up to the last. Cllr Paul O'Brien is next.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, and I will be brief. How do I follow what has already been said? I had

the privilege and honour of knowing Mags before both of us came into politics. We were active, trying to get elected and I have to say from the get-go I knew that she was a lady of integrity and as everyone has said high intelligence. Then we were absolutely overjoyed when both of us got elected. Then I was lucky enough to serve with Mags on the housing SPC and I have to admit she scared me a little bit at times, because her knowledge, when I say scared, I mean in the sense that what do I have to do to catch up here? Because I didn't know, I have to say. I am still learning, but you seemed to be able to, it was so natural to you, and it was so in-depth. It was frightening, but at the same time reassuring that I knew I had someone like that on the committee to show me the way. It is going to be a sad loss not just to the independent group but all of us as a body, it's like losing one of our own. We are like a family whether you are independent or party. I do wish you the best. I know it must have been a very difficult decision. I can echo what everyone else said, but I sincerely wish you all. Please God you will be back to us sooner rather than later. Every best wish. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Well, Cathaoirleach, it's a very sad day I think for local democracy when we lose a person of the calibre of Cllr Mags Crean. Just listening to the excellent contributions which have been made and the tributes made, as you said yourself, Cathaoirleach, it's striking to me, most people have only got to know Cllr Mags Crean as a councillor in the last three years, but she has got her perfectly. Her integrity, her enthusiasm and her ability and to my mind her continuing constant compassion for people who are marginalised and disadvantaged. It shone through for me in every contribution she ever made at council level and many of the discussions we had privately. This is a person who is genuine, committed and that commitment, I suppose has resulted in her making a decision here unfortunately that what she really sees the role of a councillor being is something at the moment, in her life is not something she is able to give her full ability to and her full effort to. I salute her bravery, as you have done, Cathaoirleach, in coming to that conclusion, because she is thinking about the people she is representing when she makes that decision. That is a mark of you, Mags, and I am absolutely delighted that she

is here today to hear all of these contributions and she is around long enough to know these are genuine feelings being expressed, genuinely by people who have got to know Mags. I am fortunate that I know her for a very, very long time. In fact, my wife would have taught Mags in third class in primary school. She would say the very same thing here today, that everyone else has said, dedication, commitment, hardworking, honesty, such a genuine person and I knew her mother and father well and her two brothers. Although her mother and father have passed on, I am quite sure they would be so proud to hear what has been said about her today. Mags, all I can say, from the bottom of my heart I wish you every success in your future career. I have no doubt you are going to have a stellar career in academia, but I would love to see the day when Cllr Mags Crean re-entered the world of politics. Maybe not today or tomorrow, but some day, because we certainly need you, Mags and I certainly wish you all the best for the future. Go raibh maith agat.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Very well-said. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Look it, I totally concur with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers. I realise Mags is

there with you today, Mags, I always found you to be totally committed and hard-working and most importantly you were extremely diligent in all of your preparations there. That you brought to your role as an elected rep. It's regrettable you found, you were forced really to make this decision, you had to prioritise your family life, your work life to get that balance. It's unfortunate that the elected rep and the Municipal District and this Council will lose out and miss you. We will be at a loss, but look, like Joe said, I am sure you will be back in the near future. So, look I want to take the opportunity to wish you the best in your future endeavours and we will keep in touch.

Cllr Pier Leonard I was devastated when mags handed in or resignation, she was one of the first councillors I got to talk to, newly, mags ran a campaign on care, she emphasised care in her campaign and putting care back into politics and stuff.

She's a person of very strong values and I have totally - values would be important to me and in our small group of independence, having good values and democracy, equality words like transparency,

would be of the core of everything we do together as a team. So, Mags will be greatly missed from our little group. But I have I could feel totally negative about her leaving politics, but I know Mags is going to work on her policy in academia now and support our group and that she'll probably have a greater platform to make that change with what she's doing. And hopefully, educate the masses as well as a lecturer and researcher in what she's doing as well. I want to wish her the best of luck and hope she enjoys a little bit more peace of mind and time to put into doing that, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks Chair, like a lot of people here I was also very upset to hear that Mags was leaving us but knowing the kind of person Mags is a professional and perfectionist and I know she wouldn't have wanted to only half-done anything right. She'd rather do

something right in its own entirety and not divide herself too much. So, for her I know she made the right decision. But for us, I think, we will always know that we suffered a great loss here, even though Mags is still with us, it feels like a great loss.

I know I haven't lost a friend. She was a good friend especially within our independent group and I know she'll always be there at the background if we need to call on her for information or research. We all valued her opinion.

Which was professional and unbiased and based on solid reasoning and on fact. She wasn't an emotional kind of person and didn't let her emotions rule her decisions which is very important.

What stands out for me though is her deep-rooted interest in creating a fair society for all. And this came through in the motions she proposed and also in the work that she was working on, things like community wealth development and community wealth creation and other aspects of

you know her work on trying to improve housing for everybody and other committees that she sat on, she gave it 100%. But nothing lasts forever, and unfortunately Mags is leaving us a lot earlier than we would have hoped but I want to wish her all the best and maybe someday we'll see her in these hallowed halls again, but if not I'm sure at a great future beckon for her and I want her to wish her the best of luck. Thank you.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you Chair. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

Mags I had the pleasure of sitting beside when Mags came into the chamber first, and she was very pleasant and whatever else, it was great to be able to sit on for party on both sides at Mary on one side and Mags on the other of comfort. I was looking at a film on RTE1 about an authority battling rights for a male carer, going back some years ago, and it reminds me of Mags fighting for the rights of people who were, who are entitled to

and lobbying and all of that in order to get it, which is of great benefit to the time. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you Cathaoirleach. I just wanted to take this opportunity with to wish Mags the very best in her career choice. Anyone who stood for local elections and got elected Mags got elected in 2019 knows how difficult it is, you're on call 24/7 and you have to take the call because people's problems pause it is quite difficult, but I have to say Mags really sat in easily into the job, I think one of the things I was amazed at is how well she was prepared. In fairness coming to meetings when she was passionate about a suggest-to-it really showed through, and she made points and contributions to the council chamber.

So, I would just like to wish Mags and her family the very, best of luck and I think hopefully we will see her again, I'm not sure whether we'll be here Mags but when you come back the county will be better off for it, and I wish you the best of luck.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, on behalf of the Fine Gael group I'd like to reiterate all the good things that have been said about Cllr Mags Crean.

She's a very empathetic person, her preparedness at every meeting she came to show her diligence and her hard work, she always had a very considered opinion in contributions that she made. You knew she had taken time to actually consider all of the options and she's a person of integrity. It is unfortunate that she, has found a situation where the demands and the role of being a public rep don't fit with the other demands with her current life. But I do hope that there will be a time when the two can fit together and that Mags does re-enter politics locally or nationally because she has an amazing contribution to make, and it is sad to see her have to step down and I wish her every good fortune in everything she does.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Grace McManus.

what they are entitled to and without having to fight a battle. And that was Mags, and she rang me on many occasions on asking my opinion. There are other people that may have had better opinions on people with disabilities in her community and what was the right way to approach something and how did they feel, and I thought as Cllr Pier Leonard said that caring came in, but not as a charity caring but rights of caring and Mags, you'll carry that in your life forever. And your leaving is unfortunately an example of what us women in the women caucus do feel that it is hard to have a balance of council, career, professional job, family, and it is balancing act and as I said, Mags on my phone call to you it is a very brave decision and don't ever feel bad about it, because at the end of the day it is your life, mental health that we have to be aware of and your family. I wish you well in everything you do, and I'm sure that you will, you will see us again, and just enjoy your different career, thanks Mags.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Yeah, I was genuinely gutted when I got the e-mail and after a while I was thinking, I'll congratulate her on her liberation! But myself and Mags we come from the same place, we've existed every time our paths crossed over the years it was in community spaces, where we were striving to do good stuff. And then our paths crossed in this unique space. I would say that our loss is someone who, from my point of view, and I told Mags I don't know if this is a compliment or not, we're a kindred spirit in how we approach this type of role. The standout for Mags is how she honoured the role and saw the role as something worthy of her commitment and all the integrity that comes with that. And the standout for me as well is someone who approaches every part of her role and brings a lived experience of her own life, adds in her academic expertise which is second to none and then the two lenses, in every and I think Cllr Anne Ferris mentioned it as well, every way she operates there's a social justice lens and human rights lens that are present. And to me, that's what

our loss represents. And yet I also agree with what people have said in that this isn't the only place to make change, so I have no doubt that wherever Mags gives her energy enthusiasm and commitment, that change-making will happen there and I look forward to seeing a celebrating that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Rory O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: I remember, when I first met Mags which I'm sure she remembers too, during the election we got partnered for the disability lobby group. And I remember us sitting down at the tables and seeing you talk and you spoke with such compassion and it was quite amazing to see, I remember thinking to myself, I was hoping you would get elected and thankfully you did, as Mags it is a shame to see you go, I know whatever you do afterwards you'll Excel in it and bring changes so thanks for your service and it was great.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you, I just want to concur with all the words and sentiments of my

fellow councillors. I worked with Mags on the board of the Mermaid the Mermaid Theatre and worked on subcommittees together developing strategies and she brought a huge amount of expertise and commitment to the board and to those committees and on behalf of the board members I'd like to thank Mags for all her hard work and wish her and her family all the very best of luck and it has been an absolute pleasure getting to know you, Mags.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Yeah. I was surprised when I got the notice to say that Cllr Mags Crean was leaving the council.

It's hard work being involved and certainly if you are heavily involved at an early stage in a career, it is quite difficult to give adequate time to it. So, but I was surprised. And also, just like to congratulate her on the work she did to obtain the Lived Come award for Greystones which was a difficult thing to do and to gather all the facts and produce the videos

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and I want to concur with everything that's said so far about Mags in particular, what's been said about her integrity is so true and I have examples from that. It is her contributions and her readiness and preparedness in public meetings is evident but to say I have evidence she is just like that in private too, when there's no currency to get out of it.

Before either of us was in politics and I was starting out, she was parliament of a committee I was coming on to, and she was so prepared every time, and she made sure to give me a phone call beforehand to make sure I understood what was happening and ready to contribute how I could, so she has been that person as long as I've known her and I know we'll miss her razor sharp analysis, stickily in the housing SPC, I think it was Cllr Paul O'Brien there, who said it, she was so prepared and had so much knowledge and we'll miss that, but her bravery in telling us why she's had to make this decision is also shows her integrity, she

wanted to tell us something and suss interested in local democracy thriving have some questions to ask now about how we can make such an institution like this more suitable for someone like her, because she's a huge loss but like others have said, somebody, like Mags will never leave politics, maybe leaving this political institution but I have no doubt she'll be involved in some way shape or form and I wish her all the best.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much

Cathaoirleach, I won't repeat what everybody said but I wanted to wish Mags the very best of luck, she always carried out her work in and gave great dedication and commitment to her local community and carried out her work in a great dig need manner. On a personal level she's always been courteous to me, and always been if there was anything I wanted to speak to her about, she's always been there, at the other end of the phone or text if I ever wanted to discuss anything with her, or to ask her advice on anything, she's been a good

support since we started. I think party politics was put aside on a lot of things and she was always there if I ever need today discuss anything, so I want to wish her the very best of luck, I know it was a difficult decision. I know coming into politics is a huge sacrifice for anybody, but I think if you have a young family, I think it must be extremely difficult. So, I just want to wish you the very best of luck Mr Ads and I have no doubt that our paths will cross again soon.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, yeah. I just spoke to Margaret outside for a few minutes before the meeting. I tell you I want to wish you the best of luck Mags from here on. I know you're a bit young in the tooth but seriously think about packing it in, so I reckon you will be back again.

I got to know you a fair bit over the last couple of years, but not as much with the Covid-19 and that we didn't get really, but I know my republican

independent councillor, Cllr John Snell here he always spoke very highly of you. So, I'd like to wish you and your family the very best, so look after yourself.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah briefly, I'd like to compliment and thank Cllr Mags Crean for her contribution over the last three years. She's contributed hugely to this council and a lot by the way her style, the way she holds herself and carries herself, she's not shouting from the roof steps, she's getting on with it, doing the work, you are no he she's doing the work in the background and really effectively as well. And I'm just sorry to see her leave this place, she brings originality and intelligence, which was great addition to this chamber over the past three years. But, on the other hand I wish her all the best and I'm sure she can make a lot of contribution to a better society in

whatever role she takes up. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

I want to make sure before I pass the Chief Executive, have I covered everybody?

Yeah. OK. Brian.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you. I'd like to say on half of myself senior management team and all the staff of Wicklow County Council I'd like to thank Mags for her huge contribution over the past few years, I've always found your input and contributions both in the chamber and outside of the chamber to be measured, articulate, intelligent and passionate and I believe you will be a huge loss to the council.

However, I know from speaking to you this is the best decision for you and your family, but I'm delighted here that you will be staying, working within the community in Greystones albeit in a voluntary capacity, so, they will still get the benefit of your enthusiasm, hard work and dedication. So that's the good news. Basically, I wish you well for

the future, and all your future endeavours, and I'm sure you will be a success in whatever you turn your hand to, so, personally like to thank you, and best wishes for the future. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

Mags before we let you go, we have a presentation on behalf of all the councillors, so I might ask you to come forward if you don't mind.

(APPLAUSE)

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Moving on, item number eight, obviously - sorry, we need a proposer first of all for to nominate Stephen Stokes to the position of councillor, Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Yeah, thank you, I'd like to formally propose Stephen Stokes to be adopted on to the council in place of Cllr Mags Crean.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Could.

CLLR FORTUNE: Stephen I've known Stephen I suppose more cares that I admit pausing it might age me. He's a very ten individuals with tenacious with loads of ability, he's got coming to this role blindly, he's had experience. He's very

politically-focused and for example, Stephen was previously in the Greystones town council from 2009-14 and during that time he chaired the tourism and twinning subcommittee of the Greystones town council in addition, he served as the Deputy Mayor from 2012-13 and mayor from 13-14, so he comes with hands-on experience to the role. Stephen is a graduate of UCD with BA in politics and MA in American studies, his career background is focused on international and education with overall 15 years' experience. He's previously lived and worked in the United States and the UK and so that gives additional benefit on while in the UK he also got involved in politics so the whole political gene and the political interest has remained with him on a consistent basis. He continues to be involved in activities locally. He was very, also supportive of his mother Bernadette when they were fighting at times a loan campaign for a dog park which eventually achieved, that was down to his mother's hard work but in the background helping orange that. And also, he

himself and in fact they're recent and experienced expert, better word chess players, and in recent times, they canvassed to get chess tables to put in the park in Greystones and the distribute council approved and they're now in place. So, he is very community-focused. He has a lot of drive in him. When you listen to him speaking you will pick that up immediately. He goes about things with a passion.

So, while I've no doubt at all that coming into replace Mags a very hard act to follow and I don't say that lightly, but he will bring other talents and different talents to the table. He's very, also very community conscious and is very focused on helping people who can't help themselves. So, which is very important attribute to have as public representative so I have no doubt he will add slap to the role, so I'm delighted and privileged to welcome him to the council.

And to propose him for the role.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Yeah, Cathaoirleach it is my great

pleasure to second Cllr Tom Fortune's proposal that Stephen will be nominated as a councillor in Wicklow County Council. And I want to join Cllr Tom Fortune in awful the tributes he made to him as somebody he has worked with in the past and certainly, I'm aware of the work when he was on the council in Greystones in the past as well. The most important thing about Stephen is Cllr Mags Crean chose him. As somebody she felt she had confidence in, to continue the work she has done. And I've no doubt that Stephen is up to that task and will do fantastic job as a public representative for the people of the Greystones electoral area and I look forward to him joining us as soon as possible Cathaoirleach, thank you.

>>: Thank you.

Cllr Paul O'Brien. I have

CLLR O'BRIEN: I want to welcome Stephen and Mother Bernadette today, Stephen is overjoyed by joining us, but I know Bernie is full of pride up there. It is a journey for Stephen, and I always knew we'd see him here someday, I didn't expect

so soon with Mags you, but I knew we would see him some day. I knew Stephen prior to when I became a councillor, he is a gentleman. And while Greystones lost a magnify dent councillor in Mags, they've gained another magnify dent councillor in Stephen. Once Stephen gets his teeth into it, he will go at it until it can complete, he saw him canvas and stomping for other candidates, a harder worker you cannot get. Community is mentioned a lot here today and mentioned for a reason, it is because both Mags and Stephen are community-based and I wish him well and I wish Bernie well because I know Stephen, like my own mother and father and God on Mersey my grandmother, she won't let you away with much, so I wish you every best. OK. And you have friends here as well. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, again, on behalf of the Fine Gael group I'd like to welcome the proposal of Stephen Stokes as a county council

letter, and Cllr Tom Fortune and Cllr Joe Behan put it very well he is the person that Cllr Mags Crean has chosen to replace her and to who she thinks is best-placed to represent her views and the people who voted for her in the council. I've known Stephen for a good few year. I do look forward to working with him. I know that he will have the best interests of his community at heart. Thanks very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

CLLR MITCHELL: I had read like to welcome the proposal of Stephen, I worked with Stephen in the past when he was a member of the Greystones town council, and always found him a very positive person who would be active in contributing to all sorts of community activities, so a positive, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: Can you see me and hear me, OK?

Great I want to welcome councillor Stokes now to what will be no doubt an adventurous few years for you as it has been for me. It is a very different world but, you no doubt have experience so that's great to come into that. And again, following on from Mags footsteps you will make great inroads in the community. I will be delighted to working with you in Greystones district as well. And hopefully we will work together for the sake of our constituents and for the good and betterment of our community. Wishing you the best, and if I can help in any way, don't be a stranger.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Yeah, I'd like to welcome Stephen. Stephen texted me last week to say I remember you Miriam, going back to 2009 and I said oh my God what an awful memory, we started our election together, and I'll certainly trust Mags' nomination and say well done Stephen for coming back in and I know you're a great community man

and it was a pleasure having the talk to you last week and to meet up again, so wish you the very best of luck.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Just as Cathaoirleach of the Greystones local district I want to welcome Stephen on to our team, sorry I'm not in person today to see you and welcome you personally but you're, you will be very welcome addition to our group of councillors in Greystones. I got to know you just briefly over the last year, but I know that you often attend our district meetings so you will hit the ground running and obviously with your previous experience as well that will all help you get going very, quickly. So, you're very welcome to the Greystones district. I look forward to your contributions in our next meetings and over the next two years, and just yeah thank you for putting yourself forward it is no mean feat to follow in Mags's footsteps, but I know she'll have done our

research thoroughly, so I have utmost faith in working with you over the next two years, and any assistance or help to get you started do feel free to call me any time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, and I want to take the opportunity to ...

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Your volume is low; we're finding it hard to hear you.

CLLR WALSH: Is that any better. Just want to take the opportunity to congratulate Stephen too on his appointment I know from previous experience working in at the Greystones County Council will stand him in the good stead in the role, look forward to working with you at municipal district and council level so again best wishes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tommy Annesley.

CLLR ANNESLEY: I'd like to concur with all the other comments and welcome Stephen into the

chamber and Stephen I'd like to thank you for your phone call, courteous of you to give me a call and introduce me, as Cllr Miriam Murphy you mentioned that we both got elected in 2009, you to Greystones and me to Arklow, or town council, so, I'd like to welcome you and say if there's anything I can do for you, thank you very much. And also, delighted to see your mother here as well so Bernie you're welcome in the chamber and very best of luck to the both of you.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks just on behalf of Sinn Fein team to welcome Stephen and as big a decision as it is to step away from this space, it is also a big decision to step into T especially when it is in full flow to best of luck to Stephen, I appreciated the phone call as well, and as I heard the describe, the chess enthusiast the terror kicked in, but when I heard Tom described your levels and skills, you're welcome and any support you need we're here for you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, we have a proposer and seconder, propose that Stephen Stokes is on the council by Cllr Tom Fortune and seconded by Cllr Joe Behan. Are we all in agreement?

Agreed. OK. I'm going to bring in the Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: On behalf of the officials, I'd like to welcome Stephen on board. Based on the contributions we've heard here today, big boots to fill but I've no doubts you're up to the task and I look forward to working with you over the coming years, so best of luck Stephen.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK Stephen, we'll ask you to take your seat.

(APPLAUSE)

OK just before I ask Stephen to say a few words, I just want to concur with previous speakers in welcoming you Stephen here as our new

councillor.

It is a very proud day for you and your mother, Bernie you're welcome here as well, I have no doubt you'll fit in very well here, we have a good team from all sides of the chamber and we look forward to working with you, obviously people have spoken very, very highly of you, I had a conversation with you the other day, and equally I was very, very impressed by your attitude and your interest in becoming a councillor. So, I just want to take this opportunity to wish you well in the role and I'm always here, I will only be here for another week, but I'll be always sitting down there to support you in any way I can. But I just want to wish you well. OK. I'll bring you into Stephen if you want to press your microphone.

STEPHEN: Go raibh maith agat. Can I firstly thank, Cllr Tom Fortune and Cllr Joe Behan for proposing and seconding me and for all the very nice words? I will have to give everyone €5 after the meeting! I would like to thank my family and friends for their continued support. Especially my mother

Bernadette, who is an inspiration for everything I do. I am glad she has joined me today. I would like to express my appreciation of Dr Mags Crean. She is someone of the highest integrity and is widely admired for her service. She was the driving force as mentioned earlier in helping Greystones to win the world's most liveable community award at the Livcom awards, again for Greystones. Of course, I hope that Mags will continue to be involved in local activities for many years to come. In the build-up to this meeting it was a pleasure to speak to many councillors for many backgrounds. Your kind support is appreciated. What is evident is we share a passion for enhancing county Wicklow. I do know that several of you have expressed frustration for you about the pace of change. I would say that all Wicklow residents and councillors and Wicklow County Council staff can share those sentiments at times. But with a positive attitude I believe we can make progress, even if it takes time. The past two years have been difficult with Covid, but perhaps we can turn the page and enter a new era of

optimism. As someone who is proud to have been raised in Greystones, I have seen enormous changes in my lifetime, especially in the amount of housing, the Greystones district has been doing its fair share, but many people do feel that infrastructure is not quite keeping pace with housing development and as such I like forward to redouble our efforts in that area. As a life-long advocate of public transport, it's a particular passion of mine. If we are serious about reducing our car journeys, we need to expand the capacity and frequency, provided we can do so safely, and I welcome the NTA seeking to extend the DART to Wicklow Town. Imagine if more frequent rail services went further be than Wicklow Town, imagine if they went beyond Brides Glen and Tallaght, imagine the possibilities for work, study and tourism. We live in an amazing county, and we are rightly proud of our tourism. My own background as kindly mentioned by Cllr Fortune is in international education. I am excited to get involved in this area. What we do now will shape

the image of County Wicklow in the 21st century. In conclusion can I take a moment to thank the council staff. From senior management to the administration departments to the people who sweep the roads and empty the bins. Thank you for your hard work. If I can finish with a quote, I love by Andy Warhol. They say that time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself. So, thank you all again and I look forward to working with you all.

APPLAUSE.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Stephen. Okay, moving on to item number 9, to consider filling the vacancy to the board of Mermaid County Wicklow, arising from the resignation of Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR FORTUNE: Obviously the next four items are committees that Cllr Mags Crean would have been own. We would normally have proposed Cllr Stokes to those positions, we are requesting that item 9 and 11, could they be deferred if possible?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is members agreed that we defer those two items? We need to give councillors an

opportunity that are interested maybe to think about it. It's the fairest way. Are we happy to adjourn item number 9, first of all? All agreed? Okay. Item number 10 to fulfil filling the vacancy to the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr Mags Crean.

>>: I propose Cllr Stokes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr Behan. All in agreement? Agreed, thank you. Item number 11 is going to be deferred to the July meeting. All agreed with that. Item number 12, to consider the filling of vacancy to housing and corporate estate Strategic Policy Committee, arising from the resignation of Cllr Mags Crean. Proposed by? Proposed by Cllr Fortune and seconded by Cllr Behan. All in agreement? Agreed. Item number 13, to consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report. Just before I open this up, we did have a discussion this morning at our CPG meeting and it was agreed, where possible and I use the words where possible, that any particular issue that is more suited to the SPC or the local MD, that that question may be put to those areas, rather than coming to the council. It's just we

are trying to get through the Chief Executive's report, and I know we have discussed this before, in a timely manner. It's not to stifle debate in any way, shape or form, but just to keep the meetings moving. That was the suggestion where possible this morning. Just before that I am going to bring in the Chief Executive next, before I open it up.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just to highlight a few things. I would like to congratulate Killebeg on winning that award in Killebeg. It was a great acknowledgement of the work done in that community. I understand a great night was had last Friday night. A number of officials and council officials were out celebrating that. It was a great achievement. I would also like to mention that there was the National Enterprise Awards were held recently up in the Mansion House and Arklow company, Aqua License were represented Wicklow LEO on the night and won the overall top award at that award ceremony, which is a fantastic achievement. So well done to Kate Dempsey and our team. Also, there would have been a press release at the start of the month, but just to highlight the fact that the Arklow Rest Centre has closed officially from the start of this month after

two-month period and is in the process of being handed back to the community. I would like to put on record my thanks to the Arklow community for their fantastic support over the past two months and I suppose the fact that 251 Ukrainian individuals pass through the centre, we have made a huge contribution to the national effort towards this humanitarian crisis. Emergency accommodation is now being provided for Dublin Wicklow and Kildare at the regional centre in Ballyogan. I would like to put on record special thanks to all the Wicklow County Council staff and civil defence and volunteers that worked at the centre over that period. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Helena Dennehy, who was the central manager and also Mike Carroll head of the civil defence for the amount of time and effort they put in. Everyone can be very proud, and I know as Chief Executive I am extremely proud of the effort that was put in and the contribution that Wicklow County Council made in relation to that centre.

Finally, I would like to highlight something that is hot off the press today. It's good news in relation to, there was a press release from the Irish Business Against Litter in

relation to a survey that is carried out. An Taisce is looking at, we are looking at 40 towns and cities across Ireland in relation to litter. Wicklow Town out of the 40 finished seventh. It was identified as cleaner than European norm, so just congratulations to everyone there and well done to the Wicklow County Council Municipal District staff and the Tidy Towns it's a great recognition of the work being carried out in the town and district.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Before I open that up, if members are in agreement if we could send a letter to the Tidy Towns congratulations to them on that. It's a super job and well done to everyone involved. I know one of the leaders of the Tidy Towns is sitting over there. The chair of Wicklow Tidy Towns. Are we in agreement to send a letter of support and thanks? Yes, thank you. And Kate Dempsey, okay. Opening up to Cllr Jodie Neary. Your hand is still raised there, Cllr Neary.

CLLR NEARY: I didn't mean to have my hand up!

ADMINISTRATOR: Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I actually had a question and it's great news to hear that about the award to Wicklow Town. I had a question on the update on the

piece on dog fouling videos. I know they are in production for the last couple of months. Having led communities on the beach cleaning dog fouling and dog fouling bags are still a huge problem on our beaches.

The second thing I was looking for an update from the housing section is we have repeatedly been asking at our district for funding to be made available to finish the walls, the surface of the walls outside the social housing in Farrankelly in the Greystones District. I think there is a shortfall of 30,000. It looks very poor and it's causing real distress and disturbance to the residents there. They have been asking us to try and get this problem sorted for the last 18 months at this stage. We are just running into the answer that there is no funding. I just wanted to ask what the plan is to achieve funding just to finish off this incredibly important social housing project. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you again to the Chief Executive for a most comprehensive report. On the housing piece and looking at the HAP figures as they continue to gain in comparison to our

housing list and the increased reliance on HAP. There was an announcement for the minister recently in certain areas and increased contributions towards HAP, I wonder how that impacted Wicklow, but we all know how difficult it is to source properties, particularly in the north of the county. Secondly on the mobility aids, I see an increase on the private sector almost up to 2.3 million. The spent figure is very still at the same figure, 111,000. Just wondering on that in terms of the number of applications, is there any movement on that. I know Covid impacted on that particular grant, but look, if there is any improvement on that in terms of the number of applications being addressed. Also, just one comment in relation to planning and the new LRD system, the large housing development system, which replaces the SHD system and going back to the SHD system, one of the parts of that procedure, senior planners would come to the Municipal District and make a presentation. I know that was part of the legislation around the SHD to local councillors. I know that has gone now. I would like to see something like that continue in terms of future large housing developments, so that local representatives could be addressed, and the

particular development could be allowed to consider the particular development, in order to make their own conclusions in relation to their own submissions, etc, etc.

So that practice could be and should be in my view continued, even though I know it's not catered for in legislation. Like Cllr Scott I was going to ask the question about the dog fouling video, whether it's still an issue.

Lastly on the N11, a member of EMRA, I requested that the Director write to the TII, they received the usual response in terms of lack of funding, so on Friday last I asked that the EMBRA write to the minister directly in terms of that scheme being paused. As you know that project is a priority project listed in the RSCS document, so that letter is forthcoming from the director of EMRA.

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you to the Chief Executive again for his report. I just want an update on, in fairness, to remind members the active travel NTA announcement last year was nine million, but that nine million wasn't distributed throughout the county

by any means and we discussed it in depth here at the time. Just do remind members, a nine million allocation with five equitable districts there should have been an allocation of 1.8 million per district. The Baltinglass district itself got only 600,000. I welcome the fact that even though there was, it probably was his first meeting as interim Chief Executive, that himself and the senior management have identified that equality and had confirmed to us that they would leverage up to one million for a rural fund to address what was a completely unjustifiable inequality of treatment. I note that the guidelines have been issued and they are making progress. Having said that I would like to remind both the executive and members that we can't continue the same inequality of treatment with the rural fund that we saw with the original allocation, so the rural areas, particularly the Baltinglass Municipal District that only got 600,000 out of a nine million allocation is a district that covers 72km, two engineering areas, which is unusual for a lot of districts. We have two engineering areas and the second engineering area, Baltinglass got a zero allocation. So, I would like to encourage you and I know there is other

pressures on you coming from rural area, but particularly you have to take into account that nine million was given, the vast majority of which to urban areas and to the urban district. So, there should be a continuance of an equality imbalance if we were to continue down this road.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Joe, I might bring you in on the housing questions there.

JOE: Okay. I will have to get a report for the Greystones on the wall... I didn't know there was something outstanding on that, I will get that for the next meeting for Greystones. On the HAP, yeah, the HAP is an extremely important part of the delivery suite, and we are quite dependent on it. Some of the increases in HAP could be increases on RAS, but we are dependent on it, and it is quite successful. I know people have challenging. The new limits are a bit early to look at yet. Might be something in the next report on that. I see the XXX on the grant repair, I am sorry about that, I will have that updated for the next Chief Executive's report which will include the expenditure to date. We are always watching that, they are not I suppose systemic challenges, there are a number of challenges regarding the Mobility Grant

Schemes and a lot of them at this stage, contractors are an issue, but there is nothing systemic or nothing that we can fix at the moment. It's just some of them are slower than normal and some of them their own challenges. I think that is the three.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Breege, I might bring you in on the planning and I don't know whether dog fouling comes under environment?

BREEGE: It does. Unfortunately, we are still in production in terms of those dog fouling videos. It's as a result, because this campaign is seen to be really good and five additional local authorities have joined the campaign. So, their input is to be included in the video. So that is the reason we have been told, we did chase it up for you, Cllr Scott following the SPC. That is what came out of that. In terms of the planning and the LRDs, Cllr Walsh, the only thing I would say to you is that with the SHD process, where the team went out, that was written in as part of the procedures to be dealt with, with the SHDs. The LRDs now put back into the realm of a normal statutory planning application. So, from that point of view, the planners, I can't see it happening, that they can now just give a report

to the MDs as to which way the decision is going. I think that would be considered as interference with the assessment of the planning. That is just my gut feeling. But I will try and come back to you with more if there is any sort of leeway in relation to that.

>>: Sorry, chair, I wasn't coming from that angle, it's just to outline the application so that local representatives can get a feel as to what the application consists of so that will allow them to make their own judgment call in relation to their own submissions. That is all. Just as an aid to local councillors. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to bring in the Chief Executive on the N11 scheme and the NTA funding for Cllr Mullen there.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. In relation to Cllr Mullen's point about the Rural Roads Scheme we are progressing that. That was raised at the CPG earlier today. As I pointed out there that is part of the criteria. We will be looking at how the original NTA split was made by Municipal District, so obviously we will be factoring in who got less in relation to that. So that will be taken into account and factored into future allocations. In relation to

the N11/M11 upgrade and I suppose the request for meeting the minister and I suppose this has been on the agenda for the last while. We have got confirmation from the minister's office that he will come down to Wicklow. He has categorically stated that will be the case. We haven't got a date yet, but what he is hoping is that it's coming down, not just to talk about the N11, but other roads matters, and the format would be possibly a meeting with officials and a meeting with the full council. That is what we are planning, and we can discuss the N11 and also other roads issues. I know the councils from Baltinglass were anxious that the N81 would be on the agenda, so that would give everyone an opportunity to raise their issues.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr R O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Thank you, Chair. I just have two questions. Firstly, I want to say thank you to the Chief Executive for including a compact view of the Ukrainian response, it makes it very easy to read and know some of the stuff Wicklow is doing. Just a question around it, when you are looking at Wicklow County Council trying to find properties, it says they will try and find vacant units. Is that

including houses within Wicklow County Council? Then my second question is, I was wondering if we could get an update on the speed limit review, what is happening around that, because we talked about it ages ago and I haven't heard much about it at all.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I am looking for an update on the Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge. I understand that an application has been made to An Bord Pleanála. It was dated the 30th of May in relation to building the bridge and the link road and the associated works. I thought Wicklow County Council were dealing with this, so I want, this was absolute news to me. The application was made by a firm of solicitors, and it says that a decision is due on the 3rd of October 2022. So, if the Chief Executive, or maybe Breege could give me, just to let us know, let the Bray councillors know what is going on in relation to this?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you, Chair. Maybe I missed it. I am wondering is there an update on the consultancy for the Town Teams? Because I think we are all waiting in

haste and to see where that is going, I think is very important, because we are kind of in the middle of the road, regarding it and I think we gave time to it, and I am disappointed that we haven't had the full report yet. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I am going to bring in Leonora on the speed review. That is what you said, Cllr O'Connor, I couldn't hear you correctly. A speed reviews.

CLLR O'CONNOR: I am looking for an update on it.

LEONORA: Cathaoirleach, we will be going to the Municipal Districts now in June and July with the maps outlining the speed limit review process and suggestions and we will be looking for the proposals, ideas and observation of the councillors at those meetings.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will bring in the Chief Executive on the other two questions there.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: On that, Cllr O'Connor has a question about the Ukrainian crisis and the houses, what we are looking at the moment is for large vacant premises that would hold multiples of families in there and we are working with IPAS in relation to that and seeing what is most feasible. I suppose what we are concentrating on

now is ones that can be brought back into use within a short period, maybe three months. So that is the priority. We are also working in relation to the pledging system. We have taken over from the Red Cross in relation to that. We are going through lists we have been provided from IPAS and the pledging system and matching them up to families who are in hotels or different areas within the county.

In relation to Cllr Murphy raised the question about the Town Team review. A draft document has been produced at that stage and it's been reviewed by senior management, and it will be brought to the council shortly.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. The question from Cllr Ferris, do you want to take that?

LEONORA: Just to say at the moment where we are at is we are reviewing the options. The consultants have brought the team back together and we are reviewing different options in relation to the Bray Sustainable Bridge, so nothing has gone to An Bord Pleanála. We are at the early stages, and we will be engaging internally with staff

and the elected members. As soon as we have more update on the options.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CLLR FERRIS: Can I come back in on this to Leonora? I actually have it in front of me now on the An Bord Pleanála website. The application number is 313685. It says: "In the townlands of Bray... and Ravenswell, County Wicklow, description of the Bray sustainable bridge, link works, case type local authority, decision and then it says EIAR no. NIS no. Parties O'Connell and Clarke solicitors applicant." And the history is that it was lodged on the 30th of May.

So, I mean it's there for anyone to see that an application has gone in to An Bord Pleanála and it's up on their website, so I want to know how come now a firm of solicitors is making an application. Is it on behalf of Wicklow County Council? This whole idea of this new bridge is a huge issue in the town, and you know yourself, Cathaoirleach, because we have spoken about it many times. Nobody knows. I certainly don't know what is going on, so I would like...

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to bring in Leonora back in.

LEONORA: So that correspondence is not from Wicklow County Council. My understanding is that solicitors have written to the board seeking a copy of the screening report. Our intention is to bring this as a Part 8 to the members, at the moment we are looking at all of the options and we will engage with the elected members of this council before anything happens.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CLLR FERRIS: Sorry, Cathaoirleach. I know I am like a dog with a bone, but could Leonora tell me again what is this application by the firm of solicitors? What are they looking for?

LEONORA: They are seeking a copy of the screening report?

CLLR FERRIS: Of the screening report, which the Board said wasn't needed? Am I right in that?

LEONORA: Yes, that is the board's report on the screening.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I am going to move on.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CLLR MURPHY: Can I come back in also?

LEONORA: Briefly on that. Obviously, the Bray members, sorry, Cllr Murphy, the Bray members will discuss this further with Leonora in terms of the bridge because I think there is more questions to be answered.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: We have heard that already about the town teams, Brian. For me, I think it's unsatisfactory. We have been waiting for the last, literally over two months and we were told before that it was coming, but it has never come. Thank You, Chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: As I said, the report has been completed and it's been reviewed by the management team and the districts and that will be fed back into the overall report before it's been presented to the full council. So, it's imminent. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you, I would like to join the Chief Executive in congratulating the Wicklow Tidy Towns on the Eyeball Report. There is ten categories and the town received nine Grade As and the one area of the town that was a Grade C it looks like that will be sorted out fairly

soon. So hopefully we will be straight A students when that is finished. I just want to thank the Tidy Towns, there is a number of staff that need to be thanked. Reuben O'Neill especially from the Municipal District, all the staff of the Municipal District, Joan Sinnott and it's a great day and there is a lot of members of the public as well, go around and clean up. So, it's a great day, I remember going back a number of years ago that report wasn't as good, but it just shows you the amount of work that has been done and the amount of effort that has been put in to keeping the town tidy. Just to be, it would be remiss of me not to mention Friday. There were over 80 houses opened in Wicklow, Newtown and Kilmac. I think that the staff of the houses sections has to be commended for all their hard work. To get everything going on the day, having ministers down, the organisation of the whole thing. But to see 80 houses being opened in the middle of a housing crisis is spectacular. I know talking to people in my area that the amount of happiness it's caused is unbelievable. People getting their forever homes. The Cathaoirleach of the council, Cllr Cullen was also there, and he would have witnessed this as well. So, it was a great day. Everyone

enjoyed it, but I think we have to really credit the staff for bringing these projects to fruition, from the start, getting the funding, getting in the builders and then of course giving the houses out. It was outstanding.

So, I just want to thank Joe and his staff for all of the hard work and hopefully onward and upward. I know we are meeting our targets, the minister mentioned it on Friday. He says the way Wicklow County Council have been carrying out their work, that future funding will be available down the road for housing, which is a great thing. Thank you.

People have died or got a transfer. I know that there are several houses lying there. Waiting to be worked. One reason I was given is we haven't got the funding to do the housing repairs which is the difficulty.

At the same time, we are not spending the money that we get for works on on private housing. I know one year we didn't spend 300,000 of it. But could you confirm there is no difficulty, or is there a difficulty with, getting the houses ready for reletting. I don't want to go through the weeks

and months, but there is an issue there somewhere. I don't know where it is, but I am told it's short of funding.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank, I am going to bring in one more speaker and come back to you. Thank you, Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: I have three questions I want to put to Joe Lane. He touched on that, and I am very welcome, I certainly want to welcome the news he is going to provide additional houses under a PPP for Arklow. I am only assuming he is talking about Abbeylands 28 acres. If that is the case, I would urge you to press ahead fast with that. You said you are not going to do it for the last couple of years. You really should be starting that, Joe. It's going to take a couple of years to get it approved now. The sewage plant will be ready in a couple of years, so there is no reason that you shouldn't press ahead with that one as well. We had our district meeting last week. As Leonora will tell you there, there were 1,000 applications we discussed for housing in the Arklow area, even though I know you have provided about 150 houses in the last couple of years in Arklow. There are still 1,000 applications. So, we really need to work harder, and we

have done a good job, we need to do better. Secondly, Cathaoirleach, Minister Humphries announced the Town Renewal Scheme additional funding for work hubs and hot desking, what towns and villages are we going to apply for? I would like to see Arklow prioritised if at all possible. You might give us an indication at this stage, as to what way you are thinking for applying under that scheme. Finally, we were told a year ago about the transport study that is being undertaken in Arklow and we still haven't met the consultants as a district. There is a lot going on and I would like to get an update from our manager on where we are with the transport study. Finally, sorry the fourth one, I am squeezing this one in, if someone comes to us with an offer of accommodation for Ukrainian refugees who is the contact person in the council, I can send them to. I am sure there will be a few more people willing to offer accommodation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay, I am going to bring in Lorraine... hold on...

>>: [INAUDIBLE DUE TO NOT SPEAKING INTO MIC]

CATHAOIRLEACH: You are not even coming up on the system here. There is only six are allowed on at one time. I will get you in. I won't leave you out.

>>: [INAUDIBLE]

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I am going to bring in Lorraine on the Town Teams question from Cllr Fortune that we didn't get to.

LORRAINE: You mentioned about the Cathaoirleach of Bray and the Town Team discussion. Just in relation to Bray, we never had actually set up a Bray Town Team as such. When Covid hit in 2020 there was a huge response in the district about actually supporting businesses and the community throughout that time and then it morphed itself into the town recovery team, which we drew up terms of reference for, they were approved by the elected members of Bray Municipal District and we were overtaken by the Town Team review, so in discussion with Christine Flood who works in the directorate that I have responsibility for, I had mentioned to her that Bray hadn't got a Town Team set up as such. I did want the views of the experience

translated into the review, so that is how that all came about.

>>: [INAUDIBLE]...

LORRAINE: Fair point. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Joe, again, reletting question there from Cllr Fitzgerald. I think there is one from Cllr Bourke as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you put on your microphone...

CLLR BEHAN: I have two queries...

JOE: On the relets. Look we are a victim of our own success. Some of the other areas have highlighted that in the past. You just have to get different context. In 2018 we had a target of 95 units. This year we have a target of 390 and we will be getting in excess of 400 units. We also target downsizers and right sizers; we have a lot of transfers. In all of these houses people are going into HU houses and the transfers have increased significantly. So, notwithstanding the increased budget, the relet budget, we have overshot it from a number of years, and we are doing our best with it. There was a policy regarding the SPC, regarding giving some of those units back immediately if they are in any shape at all once the health and safety.

We are doing that, and we are getting people aware of it, and we are trying to get them in. But some of the other ones, they are on a schedule, they are on a budget, and we are dealing with it as best we can. There will be an increase in relets this year and other areas will pick that up in the past. I don't think it's suitable for the DPG private money. I think I missed that point. I can't bring that across, and you know that, if that is the question you were asking. >>: [INAUDIBLE].

JOE: If he brings it across, I will take it across. Because if we didn't draw attention to this particular issue, as we are increasing our relets, they are increasing significantly. We did and he did say he would look at something, but I think we might have missed. We will be back to him in that regard. The PPP bundle 3, I think we might be a bit clearer on that one. It's a site in Arklow. You would have to wait for sewerage. It's an a massive of me, we sent three in, the department put number one and two, as their number one and two and said it would be in the next phase which will be phase five or six. So, I am not the one hurrying it, I am delaying it. I think that is the two.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There was a couple of questions. Leonora, for a transport study for Arklow and I think Cllr Behan had a question on the level crossing. LEONORA: Iarnród Éireann are working with the NTA on funding this DART Plus Programme. As part of that there is The Coastal South which includes Wicklow, this is about modernising the system in the Dublin area. About the increasing capacity and frequency of trains. As part of that project there are a number of level crossings in this area, five in Dublin and two in Wicklow. One is in Bray.

One of the options that they were looking at was making modifications to the Seapoint Road as one of the options. Now, we have engaged with them, and we have expressed the matters that were raised at the SPC. We have ensured that they must have early consultation with the elected members in the Bray area. So, they have undertaken to do that and to do further assessments of the different options. We understand that the first round of public consultation should happen in autumn 2022 of this year. Then, in relation to Cllr Bourke, the transport study for Arklow is fairly well advanced at this stage and we do

expect to be engaging with the members in the next four to six weeks and then go out to the non-public statutory consultation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There was another question about an investigation into An Bord Pleanála, connected with that. You might come in on that Breege.

BREEGE: Look, Cllr Behan, the same as yourselves, we haven't got any information coming through, just what is in the newspapers in relation to it. So, nobody has got in contact with us, with regard to any of our SHDs.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Finally, I think the last question that hasn't been answered is Cllr Corrigan's with regard to the greenway in the, the safety issue in Kilmac. Do you want to take that Leonora?

LEONORA: I will take that back to the members and bring it back to them. Get an update and get it back to them.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Is that not working? Okay. Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach, thank you to the Chief Executive. I just want to raise the issue of water and wastewater and the urgent need for upgrades in our towns

and villages. In particular in my own district. Many of our towns and our smaller villages are in bad need of upgrades of their facilities and unfortunately this is hindering the development of these small towns and villages. I know that this is something that we raised on a regular basis at our Irish water clinics, and I will take the opportunity to raise this with the minister when the opportunity arises, but I would ask the council to push from their side to ensure we do get these essential services in our towns and villages. As I said, they are hindering development and as a result we are not seeing houses being built and we are seeing people moving out of Wicklow and moving to other areas where they have the capacity to build the houses and they have the infrastructure to go with them. I would also like to echo the comments of Cllr Mullen in relation to the active travel funding. There are huge inequalities throughout the county, and I just would ask the council to ensure that they don't forget about the rural areas and that they ensure that funding is divided equally and fairly among the districts. We are extremely grateful for the allocation that the Chief Executive has been able to make but we would ask for a

fair share of the funding for the rural areas. Finally, I also want to thank the Chief Executive for ensuring that all issues will be discussed with the minister. I know that I have harped on about the N81 numerous times and I am sure you are all sick of me saying it, but I do appreciate the efforts being made by the council on this. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Thank you, chair. I just have to points I want to raise. One is about six months ago I asked about the funding for the Murrough coastal Protection Works. He said that a committee was being put together and that they would soon be getting everything ready to make a submission to the EU for funding. I want to know has that been progressed at all. Then the other point is, and this is just for the Chief Executive, has the County Council any jurisdiction in the area of we will say the work that the Citizen's Information Centres do.

You will be aware that the Wicklow branch has closed down recently and while there is a new model within the system that they are working towards which is online and phone-in services, which is fine for people who are

computer literate and who have the ability to read information. There is a huge cohort of people for whom they are going to be very badly let down, people with literacy problems, people with language problems, new people recently moved into the country, refugee status, things like that. So, there is a huge cohort of people that are really going to fall through the cracks if some alternative system isn't arrived at. So, I just want to know, is the Council aware of any responsibility of the Council in that area or is it just something that comes from the Department of Social Welfare, or should we be trying to progress it or push it?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Thank you Cathaoirleach and thank you to the Chief Executive for his comprehensive report. In terms of the streetscape, I know it's made a huge difference in Wicklow and Arklow as well. Can I ask, there was 320,000, was that granted or drawn down? Obviously if it's been granted and drawn down, well enough, but if it hasn't been all drawn down, has the deadline passed for other businesses to take advantage of it? We are hearing great news about housing today and I want to welcome

the 80 plus houses that were brought on stream last week. My concern and I have raised it here a number of times is that the staff in the housing department, in my opinion are overworked, they are doing Trojan work, but I don't want to see them burnt out. Is there adequate staffing in housing and if not is there any room for recruitment? As a councillor, we are always happy to jump on the negative news, I suppose at times. I just want to compliment arrears team, I notice that it's dropped by 225,000 in a year, which is in the middle of a cost of living crisis. So, credit where credit is due. I want to remind you that east Wicklow has rural areas as well, we are not all big town, Brittas Bay being one of them. I have called for a footpath to be done from Mc Daniels down to the north car park. It would make a huge difference to that end of the county which is rural during the winter and very busy during the summer. May I take the opportunity to wish everyone involved on Saturday with the SSC around Ireland every success and to thank the council for their co-operation in organising it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Firstly, I am going to bring in Michael on the Town Renewal Scheme that Cllr Bourke brought up.

MICHAEL: I can answer the question in relation to streetscape. The streetscape fund is complete. All monies have been paid out. We have heard there have be a round two. As soon as I know I will let you know, we are expecting a second round. The village, applications are now open. We can make 11 applications. One of the problems we have in this county is that it's up to 5,000 people and then from 5,000 to 10,000. So, a lot of our towns are outside of that and in particular the towns like Greystones and Arklow and Wicklow. Now, this year they have made a slight modification to the scheme. They will allow a certain number of applications from 10,000 to 15,000, so we will be looking at that. 60% of the applications must be in the 0-5,000. That rules out a lot of the bigger towns and focuses on the smaller towns which is what the scheme was designed to be in the first place. So, it may be possible for Arklow to make an application on this scheme in the 10-15,000 and possibly also Greystones. We can have a look at that, but only 11

applications per county. So, if 60% have to be, if my maths is right, that means 7% will be in the 0-5,000. There isn't much room for manoeuvre, we are looking at all applications. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Mark, are you on the line? I might bring you in on the coastal protection, because I know it's something you have been working on.

MARK: Can everyone hear me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

MARK: Yes, thank you. I have been contacted by Irish Rail in relation to the Coastal Protection Project. For them it's from Ringsend to Wicklow Town. So, it includes the Murrough area. They are in a standstill period; they are about to appoint consultants to progress the project. It has received funding in principle from the NTA. Part of the project includes our strategic assessment report which is to work out the funding etc. So Irish Rail are working on that. They have indicated they will ask a member of the council staff to sit on a Steering Group with them. So it will be, Brian, our Chief Executive appoints, it will probably be Breege or myself, so that project is hopefully going to go ahead in September or October, where they will start the

design process and look at the costing or funding for it. It's been run by Irish Rail with funding from the Department of Transport.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Mark. There was one other question there. I might bring Brian in on this. This was in relation to the information Cllr Kavanagh raised.

BRIAN GLEESON: We don't have any information in relation to that. The situation in Wicklow is unsatisfactory and I think a number of TDs are pushing that with the department, but we would have no input in relation to that, councillor. Can I just make a point, I should have mentioned it under the Town Teams, but in the last day or two, we have received confirmation from The Department of Rural Regeneration that we are receiving an allocation of 100,000 for a Town Regeneration Officer. So, we are looking for sanction for that and it will be implemented shortly. So that is for a three-year period, all local authorities are going to get that. It's under the Town First policy that is brought in earlier this year. So that will be, I suppose supporting the work of the Town Teams and the local authority in relation to regenerating our towns and villages. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. There was one other question from Cllr Cronin, I know there is an ongoing problem with wastewater and the smaller villages across the county. Breege, is that something you want to come in on?

BREEGE: No, it will be Leonora.

LEONORA: We have a list of 4 areas prioritised under the small town and villages growth programme. We are working closely with Irish water to keep the pressure on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you. I never got any question on the Delgany to Black Lion and road. My question was asked at the previous three meetings, and I couldn't get an answer. I like now some future dates as to what is going to happen. It has been on the plan since 1989.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Leonora, I missed that.

LEONORA: The detailed design is on at the moment. We will go to preparation of tender documents, and we would hope to procure a contractor by quarter four of this year.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR P KENNEDY: I won't hold you up long. Just first of all I have two or three questions, but the first thing is I

would like to welcome the 3.5 million the Minister for Health announced for the Coleman's Hospital last week. It's very much welcome. My first question is for Joe. Joe, can we expect extra funding for fabric upgrade works and external information this year? I mean there is ten houses up in Cymrie, they just get pushed back and it never happened for them. I think it needs to be brought to the front now and something needs to happen. Under roads, I know that, and I want to congratulate the team, the Footpath from Rathnew to Gleneely is nearly completed. Could we extend that to Rathdrum going forward, because it's a fantastic facility and it would be great to see it extended. The other thing is I don't think we got enough funding for rural roads. There has been 60 years of neglect of funding being put into rural roads. This year I don't think we are getting enough money. We need to apply for more money. How we go about doing that, I don't know, but I think the director and the TDs and ministers need to be applying for more funding for rural roads. Last week I was very disappointed at that our district meeting to hear we had no derelict sites in the Arklow MD area, I would like that relooked at. I think myself and the other

councillors wouldn't agree with that assessment that we don't have any derelict sites. We all know of derelict sites in Rathdrum and in Arklow. The other thing, I suppose on coming in on what Cllr Cronin said, I have it on my own list here. It's great to see the Avoca wastewater plant is, but I am wondering where the Aughrim one is? Funding was announced and I am wondering if the director could follow up on that. I don't expect it today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Stokes.

CLLR STOKES: Could I thank the Chief Executive for the report. As someone coming into this fresh it's great to see there is so much going on in the county, so thank you for the report. Two things I would like to raise. I did attend the recent district meeting in Greystones, and I know that the Bray to Greystones cliff walk was discussed. Could I ask where we are at with this in the last two weeks? It's so vital to our tourism in county Wicklow and local businesses in both Bray and Greystones. I wanted to see if there was any update on that. I know that there is a bit of a work around in terms of going off road with, or going on to the loop trail, but it's not ideal. So, I want to see what the update is. Also, I would like to ask about the east coast

greenway to see where we are at with that. I believe some time last year Irish Rail completed a Coastal Erosion Study, then I had heard that Wicklow County Council had funded a feasibility study. I believe that there was stage one from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland. I wanted to see if there was an update on the East Coast Greenway to Wicklow Town.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Could I echo what Cllr Kavanagh mentioned there, Citizen's Information Centres. We had two in west Wicklow and the two are gone. One in Blessington and the other one in Baltinglass. So, I don't know what the approach would be there, but it would be fairly important that, it's something that is very useful in the area. I know I have asked a lot of questions as a councillor, which I am not able to answer. I found the advice centres in either Baltinglass or Blessington very helpful. You have to go to Newbridge in County Kildare from west Wicklow if you require the services.

Again, just to mention what Cllr Cronin mentioned there.

We have 46 houses in Blessington which are finished, and

we have a dreadful need for those houses, like any other part of the county. Again, we would like to see them moving on, but every time you talk to Irish Water it's kicked down the road another bit and another bit. There was one issue I wanted to raise here today and that would be that I talked about it here four weeks ago and that being the car parking outside the cemetery, there is, the entrance to the greenway is at that location. Would the new housing estate in the pipeline, the car parking outside the graveyard, the bit of car parking we have will be gone? I think we are down to about five spaces we will be. I raise that issue here four weeks ago, so I want to explain to councillors here more than anything, that after the meeting Breege rang me and said to me about parking maybe in the 32 acres. There is 32 acres of council land opposite the graveyard. I did look for a couple of yards to build a little car park for people attending funerals and also people who would be accessing the greenway there. We talked about meeting up and having a chat about where we could put a new car park in the area. But lo and behold, the following day. Remember councillors, this is 32 acres of your land, my land, the people's land, but the following day

myself and my local Councillor Glennon, we visited the area and we found about approximately four acres of land which was fenced off, gates up, hard core entrance. This land had been taken over by a local business. What I am asking here today is who gave permission for our land, for the people's land to be handed over to private business? I went down there on the day of the blessing of the graves. This is a half mile off the road off the graveyard. I drove down to go into it to have a look around. I was informed by a security lad at the gate that you can't enter this land. I wanted to enter our land, the people's land. He said no, I have to go into the holiday resort and pay €3 and then drive through the estate resort and park my car on council land.

Now, I think this is an out and out scandal. Where this came from? I know we need parking in Blessington, we need parking in Blessington in a bad way, in a big way. I hear talk lately that they are not going to charge the €3. That is very good of them, isn't it? I have photographs on my phone of four acres of council land being taken over. It's fenced up, I believe, 9,500 was spent on the fencing,

new gates, hard core. If will is an accident in there, who covers this? This is absolutely crazy. I, as an elected councillor and some of my colleagues from West Wicklow, we look for an extra few yards there, outside the graveyard and we were told no, there is a master plan for the 32 acres. I would ask where is the master plan there for a business overnight, can fence off, put the hard core in, put fencing in place, gates in place and work away? I am looking for an immediate investigation into this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will get you an answer first.

CLLR O'NEILL: If you could.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to Cllr Kennedy's questions first.

Cllr Pat Kennedy's question first, Joe you take the fabric up

CATHAOIRLEACH: Roads.

>>: In relation to the Glenealy Rathnew road extend today, Rathdrum, we can look at future applications for funding in the coming years.

With regard to Wastewater Aughrim, that has moved over from asset management to asset

delivery, what that means is they've moved design, procurement, awarding the contract and finally the construction. So, it is with asset management at the moment.

I can take Cllr Stephen Stokes's question. On the east coast Greenway, we are meeting with TII to issuing to tender document for phase two, to appoint consultants on that.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: There was a question about the cliff walk, Michael you might take that.?

Michael: I'm assure no-one is frustrated as I am about the cliff walk, it's with our legal department trying to negotiate with the other side, try to get that sorted. We have funding as you know through the scheme to do that walk so, we will expedite that, but it is a slow process. In the meantime, we are trying to reroute find alternative route from Bray to Greystones to provide people alternative until the cliff walk has been resolved so we're working on both concurrently, we hope to have news on the walk itself shortly, we will keep everyone updated.

>>: Cathaoirleach, thanks, I'm wondering is it possible we can look for extra funding for rural roads is that within our gift to do that, some of the roads I'm driving is scandalous, what people are expected to drive on and derelict sites is the other one, thanks.

LEONARA: We'll look as much money as we can get, it depends how we can spend it all, but we will work with members on prioritising the roads that need to be done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Derelict sites Joe is that your area, no Breege.

Breege: Yeah, just to say that Cllr Pat Kennedy, like just inquired of the team and they've investigated any site that there's been brought to their attention. And, you know what they said it doesn't meet the criteria, what we can do is get a copy what the criteria is and send it to you in relation to that. Now there's another section which is vacant sites that's another area that we're

looking at under different legislation, I'm sure there are a number within the Arklow area that fall into vacant sites. Maybe it is appropriate at another time to get the differentiation between the two, but definitely if there's a site that you want, looked at, if you just write into the planning department and we will have a look at it. OK.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Kennedy.

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CLLR KENNEDY: Thanks direct, to Kilkenny, would it be possible that somebody could be made available with myself and colleagues in the Arklow area we have a number of sites and have a fair understanding of the derelict sites and it is definitely derelict sites.

BREEGE: We can put something in place.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. One more question here to be answered from Brian the Chief Executive on Cllr Gerry O'Neill there.?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Councillor I know this issue

was addressed and raised in detail at the last Municipal District meeting.

>>: Sorry.

Exec executives saying, this issue was raised by yourself at the last Municipal District meeting, and I hope, it is district matter what I will say is that as you've stated, the issue of the three Euro has been addressed and there's no charge put on that particular piece of land.

In relation to the long-term parking, requirements, as was pointed out it will be addressed as part of the master plan, and as you acknowledged there is a kind of short-term traffic management issue around that area, and that piece of land is being used on rare occasion as an overflow but without charge for the summer months until the situation is sorted out. There's a number of issues that need to be clarified and brought back to the district meeting in due course where it was raised by yourself originally.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

CLLR O'NEILL: This is an actual car park built hard core.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It is a temporary situation.

CLLR O'NEILL: It is occupied land now ...

Cheer the Chief Executive has given you his clear view it is temporary measure. You can only go on what he's saying to you.

CLLR O'NEILL: Am I getting assurance here today here that the occupied land in Blessington will be returned to the council?

Am I getting that, or can anyone put up tent and say look ...?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: There's license agreements in place for those lands so it is not a case of handing them back to the council. So, we're looking into the matter as I said it was raised at the district meeting by yourself the manager at the meeting said if you looked at and it would be ...

So, I think that will map. And the immediate issue of the three Euro charge has been dealt with.

CLLR O'NEILL: There's a lease on this land.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: There's a number of parties involved so we have to look into it, Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Can I be assured that there's no-one, no-one can move into public property, we're talking about public property earlier on here. There's no-one can move - can I be assured that 32 acres cannot be occupied by anyone and those who are occupying the land at the moment must be removed?

Or who gave the green light for those who go in there. care

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We said we'll look into that in due course, you're looking for a yes or no answer it is not a yes or no question, we'll explain, we'll look into the situation, but at the moment, I said as you admitted yourself there's a traffic issue and health and society issue it is only used on rare occasion, on the rare occasion councillor as overflow and no charge on it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Please:

CLLR O'NEILL: I don't September any of that, the traffic problem is not down there, the traffic problem is a business created problem. I'm talking about, to facilitate the people who will be travelling to the green at people travelling to funerals. And all I'm look for is a couple of yards.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: That will be part of the paster plan. There's a process in place.

CLLR O'NEILL: The four acres ...

CHAIR: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I just want to back up Cllr Gerry O'Neill. This is council land, all we wanted to know is what actually happened?

Why did it happen?

Council land has been, is being used, and we don't know why it has been used, what the background is, there was hard core there, parking was charged for. Like what is the background to this?

Do the council give permission for someone to do this?

This is publicly-owned land, we wanted how it

ended up in the situation now, and we're very much in the dark. In fairness to Cllr Gerry O'Neill, he asked this two or three weeks back.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Chairman this isn't just a matter for the people in the west. Like, the council owns the land, we had six motions before disposals of property. OK.

Which we had to pass as a full council.

Now, it sounds to me like there's a major issue here where something has been agreed, yet again without the knowledge or approval of the councillors.

So, I think we should stop now and hear the answer to Cllr Edward Timmins' and Cllr Gerry O'Neill's question now, not it is looked into, that's not an answer. You guys know the answers.

So, we are entitled to hear the answers now.

So, chair lock, can we get the answers to very reasonable questions?

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, now to be fair to Chief Executive he has tried to answer Cllr Gerry O'Neill's question, but if you want to clarify. Cllr Joe Behan look.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We don't ...

We don't have all the fact and figures, when we do, we'll present it to the district Municipal District.

CLLR BEHAN: We're all entitled to hear the answers.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I'm not going to come out with half-fact here. Let the process take its course, we're looking into it, and we will come back to it.

CLLR O'NEILL: No staff knew about this. No-one, no official view, they were more surprised to see four acres in Blessington. Occupied land there now and we have to know, someone sanctioned this and gave the green light here. Someone gave the go-ahead and I'm not accepting it.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, I agree

with Cllr Edward Timmins, Cllr Joe Behan and Cllr Gerry O'Neill, it is amazing there's four acres of land that is occupied and that we have to look into it. We shouldn't have to look into it we should know if there's somebody on four acres of our land and look forward to the response and I hope that we have it at the next council meeting in full detail.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I suggest that we maybe put this item on the agenda for next Monday as part of our annual again meeting.

>>: We have special meetings.

LORRAINE: No Cathaoirleach you can have a special meeting after the annual meeting, on the same day, but I'd suggest, we have the 20th and then it is, we don't have a chance - if the matter as complex as what you think it is. It is too soon.

CATHAOIRLEACH: July agenda. Are we happy with that?

CLLR WINTERS: For a full answer, not ...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed?

OK. Thank you.

All right. Item number 14, to adopt the To Adopt the Wicklow County Council Annual Report 2021(Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001). Helen you might give update on this.

HELEN: Section 221 of the Local Government Act requires the consideration and adaptation of the elected members of the Annual Report. The draft was considered by the members at the April meeting, and the no act performance indicate force for 2021 have now been included. The Annual Report is extremely informative document and contains a wide range of information on all the councils functions including pieces on each of the MDs, once adopted it will be translated into Irish and made available on the council's website and it is now listed for adoption.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So just for noting.

Proposer and seconder, Cllr Pat Kennedy and Cllr Sylvester Bourke seconded. All agreed?

Agreed thank you. Item number five teen fifteen.

MICHAEL: Yeah, just waiting for the PowerPoint to come up.

It is only a short update, won't keep you long

Cathaoirleach, it is just we have been walking on the LECP since the start of this year. And I just want to give update on what we've done so are so far. The first slide yeah.

Might be one or two before that do the next one.

Just to remind the members this comes from putting people first Action Plan for effective Local Government, Reform Act 2014, every authority is to set out objections and act to support economic development and the local and community development. The plan is two halves, economic and community side, we've had first plan and about to start a second plan. There's just brief background to what is going to be, economics developed by the ESPC, for economic and enter at community element by the LCDC and both come together to form a plan at the end of the year. Integrated action to be developed some of the

actions cover both community and economic, and then we have set up for the last six years advisory group comprised of representatives of LECP and the EDES and that co-ordinated it, that's a pick toe gram of where it all fits in, national planning framework, regional spatial strategy and County Development Plan sits alongside the LECP joint priority.

And then the local plans, MD plans, that's a pick toe gram of where it sits.

We also have to look at the socio economic context and prepare socio economic statement as part of our plan. In particular, under this particular plan we're looking at Covid-19, it is amazing in the last plan there was no mention of Covid-19 or working from home or zoom calls, the whole world changed since then, so big impact of the current plan and recovery.

As you can imagine, a lot of what is coming out of the new plan is climate change, which has seemed to have deteriorated dramatically over the last six years, consultation is the big issue everyone wants

to talk about, so, Sustainable Development Goals is coming up a lot by people raising it, public sector and human rights huge emphasis of everybody treated equally, big emphasis on nobody being left out. And that's complying with the human rights duty and sector equal act.

So, the format of LECP this is as flexible, and very fluid document it won't be just prepared for six years, it will be updated regularly so there's a framework set of the high level goals and objectives from both the economic and the community side.

Then, there's actual implementation plan so what they're doing this time around is we have to consider report in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2006 as amended: Development of 106 residential units to include 70 no. houses, 36 no. duplex apartments and creche (200sq m) and associated site works at a site at Burgage More, Blessington, Co Wicklow (copy attached)

(adjourned from meeting of 07/03/2022) year implementation plan and review the plan two years to see what is working and not working and review them accordingly.

I won't go through that, that's for, I can send the presentation out to the members, it gives details of the kind of issues that are coming up. I can't even read that myself, so I have it in front of me to read, to give you some flavour. Some of the high level goals, develop community capacity and engage in urban regeneration and development. Active citizenship and public participation, LECP will access training and increase lifelong communities for all, infrastructure measures supporting and investment, and enterprise knowledge and creation, sustaining enterprise and high quality income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county. Capitalising unique attributes, human capital, marine, agriculture, and forestry resources and support low carbon and climate resilience, economic activity. So, stage one is preparation, so we started off by

reviewing the last plan. We're now working on socio economic analysis, and we've

CLLR O'CONNOR: Colluded first round of public consultation, we had meetings with all MDs and online public consultation and second one on the environment because that was coming up as such a big issue. We are taking on board national policies and strategies, so, we'll come back to you with socio economic statement with the high level goals, had a that is to be signed off by the LECP and SPC, OK. And that's just a basis of the socio economic statement what we take into account in preparing it.

Stage two then is the undertake public consultation on the statements, when we have statement produced, we send it around and we get comment on that. Then we revise it, fending on the public consultation, so very much collaborative and consultative and participation approach, the public have written every word, it is from them, it is their plan not ours, PPN has huge role, having owl consultations as well.

So, linking the high level goals, economic and community e, specific measurable and sustainable objectives outline of the desired outcomes, all the objectives in the plan have been to time-bound, we can't just put it down, but we have to say and when, and present the draft to the MDs and regional assemblies. Go to the MDs and EMRA must be consistent with the city and County Development Plan and consistantly between the economic and community element of the plan. We can't have one contradicting the other and then hopefully at the end of the year presented to the council.

Part two as I mentioned earlier is implementation, we must actually set down specific time-bound actions on each objectives T can't be open-ended objectives, you must have a deadline for each one, you must look at consideration of resource available are to each action and also state who is going to carry out the action, one could be council, other agencies or HSE we must list that as well. So, these are the kind of elements that you might

see for example in the community end of it.

Improved quality increase community based services, physical socio economic and environmental regeneration, urban rural communities, community building.

Education new jobs, access to high quality information and communication and community involvement in climate change.

Economic ones with include tracking investment enterprise, sustaining expanding existing enterprises, improving quality and diversity employment digital connectivity, strengthening towns and villages.

Economic ones there, green economy, including circa economy, skills et cetera, and this plays in with the campus and the thing as well. PPN have been working very closely with this, they've been doing their vision for community wellbeing consultations, they've done online surveys, and online workshops, and physical workshops alongside our LECP workshops so great feedback and we have special funding in the departments,

one in three funding to enable us to do this.

These are some issues coming out so far from the plan. Better communications, more opportunities to participate influence local developments, better transport, holistic planning practices fags sill Tate social characters, economy in work, equality, equity and inclusion for all and recognition of buy diversity, more resources and resource force physical and mental health the conclusion, short brief update, we will continue working on a bring back regular reports to the regulars as we do it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank Michael.

Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Yeah thanks Cathaoirleach and Michael, there's a huge amount of work going on in that and it is very valuable and I know there's been a lot of positive feedback coming to me from communities engaging with the consultation process, I just had one question I raised at our climate SPC meeting, you know I'm delighted to

see the importance of climate change been pinned in this report as it develops but I would ask and maybe this has happened, I would ask there's a climate rev by the SPC on the steering group, I would see this as being key, at this document is formed.

And develops over the next time. It is a key, as you outlined there, the issue with climate change it is a key requirement and it is a key consideration of this whole plan and I think that's highlighted from the public as well, and it would be important to have a representative on the steering group, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We are running out of time so I would ask you to be brief. Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN. Cathaoirleach, thanks, I will be as brief as possible. In my view the LECP is as important as the county development as you see the amount of meetings and consultations and more meetings and more amendments on we had

and still haven't finished the County Development Plan so I'm delighted Michael brought this update as to where we are at the moment because my experience so far, a lot of people are conscious as to the difference between the CDP and LECP I'm starting to get my head around it now, there was submissions sent in from the County Development Plan we realised should be in the LECP plan, I presume the planning departments and your department Michael is overseeing with submissions that can come back into play. On that, in agreement with Cllr Lourda Scott there on the climate change involvement, I think it is vital the community SPC, that is there, is involved in the steering group as well. I know the LECP has a role, but the community SPC has great input in the area, and I know myself, from coming from a rural part, the problem with post this Covid-19 period is a lot of community groups are only getting back to normal and in some cases, they're trying to get back their committees filled again, and this LECP is going over their heads completely. So, I do think

we're going to have to put our heads together to get the widespread input particularly to the rural/urban divide in the county to ensure it is fully inclusive so if the LECP is involved in that I'd welcome that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: Firstly, to say thank you to the PPN, excellent sessions held throughout the county and lots of engagement, I know some of my fellow councillors were at it. In relation to the final document Michael when it reaches the end and all the work is done, in consideration could be given to easy to read version of it, or NALA look at it because it is key document for the whole document and to try as inclusive as possible. And just as my colleague councillor referenced in terms of the rural and urban divide, we have key areas of Dev preservation and if some consideration is given to go into those areas and get feedback of those who would be lesson gauged to come to sessions that would be great.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Just quickly want to give credit and recognition to the department and PPL, we had a meeting in May they organised a hundred young people representing every MD in the county it was their own think and asked CCSD, did they want to talk about the LECP, Deirdre and Helen took the floor and took flip charts and comments and included young people in the LECP process which is add mir-8 and give strength to it so thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pier Leonard.

I was going to reflect some of the things that have been said there because I went by the PPN meeting in Arklow and I could see within my under and own community there wasn't a diverse group there, inputting into it. And I wondering how we reach the people that don't go to things like that, people that are valuable things to contribute but they won't necessarily go to something like that. It is difficult situation, I know the council deal with this all the time with public input into things, it is trying

to reach those people but intergenerational thing is very much important and I think, reaching the older groups of people in our communities and the younger ones and fair play to Dermot for organising that, that's brilliant to know all the MD his a representative I want to thank Michael as well it is very complex directive that he manages and I think that Eva made a valid point there to try and simplify it because I get overwhelmed reading it a I'd be in the know of community stuff and that.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thanks Chairman just chair of SPC I would like to thank the PMN and staff for contributions they made to t and also Deirdre who attended those meetings as well. I was impressed with the meeting in the Baltinglass district, certainly the people there, I think were familiar with the workings of these committees, and certainly contributions they made on the night in question was substantial in my estimation anyway, so maybe for next SPC meeting we will have update

on it, but I'll like to thank the people who have contributed to T and certainly very worthwhile exercise too.

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: God that sounds serious.

Yeah, I just think Michael all credit to yourself and to the team you have behind you. I think they all have a great understanding and level of bringing people in, in rural and urban and I think, this programme reaches all young and old and people with diversity and facilities and age-friendly and it covers a whole multitude, and it is one of the most positive programmes that Wicklow County Council can promote, and which get great feedback and credit for what they work. And the funding, I mean, the funding streams it is just amazing. The simple funding things makes such a difference to people in very small areas. I just admire them. I would like to highlight though, that anything that is printed on

be in an easy format to read because it is amazing how people with disability, visual impairment, and intellectual disability do actually take part in all of these projects and it needs to be knowing what is going on. But credit, thanks Michael.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Miriam Murphy.?

Michael: Just a couple of things for those I suppose a quick answer - County Development Plan is concerns with management and blueprint for developing the county in planning perspective.

MICHAEL: Just a couple of those things. The plan is concerned with land management. LECP is more about the economic and community priorities for the county. So, the two of them dovetail with each other. You can't have one without the other. They both complement each other, there is no more important than the other. You need both for them to function properly. It will be written in plain language; the disability and inclusion committee are looking at it carefully and we have a commitment to always produce documents. I do appreciate that there is a lot of acronyms in everything we do in CCSD, even that is

an acronym, but we are going to write this using plain English. It will be proofread by the Disability Committee to make sure it is understandable for everyone who wants to read it. The membership of the Advisory Committee is set down by statute. I will have a look and see can we increase that. It's mainly made up by the economic SPC, but we will have a look and see if we can have subgroups to look at particular elements, which might not be a bad idea. The question that Cllr Leonard asked, it's always a problem. We have had physical meetings and online meetings and we have done everything we can, but there will always be a cohort who feels left out. It's how we reach those. That is why we use the PPN, because whatever chance we have of meeting those groups the PPN is our best possible chance. We will make sure that everyone is consulted. The urban/rural divide is coming up at all of our public consultations and we will focus on that. Yes, we will have an update on the SPC meeting. I think that is all the issues, Cathaoirleach, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Michael. We will, thank you for that, that was very informative. Unfortunately, we are running out of time, so we won't get to item number

16. I know Jim Callery was waiting. We will put it on the July agenda, so I am going to move on to correspondence, if there is any correspondence.

ADMINISTRATOR: Just one, just to note the circulation of the protocol minutes of the 7th of March.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. All right, all done. Okay, thank, members, we have our annual general meeting next Monday. I said this at CPG, I think it is important to have a full chamber, it's a very important day in the year. I think it's important that everyone who is remote, if they could be here for next week, that would be worthwhile.

ADMINISTRATOR: And we will also be able to have refreshments in the canteen, so it's a good opportunity for everyone to meet up after such a long time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you all, protocol next, if there are any members please hang on.